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CHEAPER MEALS—WHY NOT?

The Common Cause

OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

LAW-ABIDING.] ***Societies and Branches in the Union 561.*** [NON-PARTY.

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[The National Union does not hold itself responsible for opinions expressed in signed articles.]

Notes and News.

Registration to be Discussed in the Autumn.

The Prime Minister announced on August 1st that the Government will undoubtedly bring in during August a Bill for prolongation of the life of this Parliament "for a certain number of months." Further, the Government's proposals with regard to Registration will be laid in outline before the House, but detailed discussion of these will be postponed until the Autumn Session. The Recess will begin on or about August 17th, but both parts of their proposals will be presented before the House adjourns. It remains to be seen, therefore, whether any alterations in the basis of the franchise will be embodied in the Registration proposals.

Votes for Sailors, Soldiers, and War Workers.

"There would be something attractive in sitting (in Parliament) for the *Agamemnon* or the *Queen Elizabeth*, instead of Little Pedlington," says Mrs. Fawcett writing in the *Westminster Gazette*, of August 1st, on registration and franchise reform. "But if a new principle is about to be introduced into our electoral law, and the vote conferred in respect of service and not in respect of mere residence or occupation, why should the services of women to their country be overlooked?" The *Manchester Guardian* says: "If there is a special franchise for soldiers and sailors, there must be one for munition workers also, and if war work is to be the qualification, women must be included. Any extension of male franchise, accompanied with a refusal of the women's claim, would at once lead to protests as energetic as they would be justified."

A Standard, Instead of a Minimum Wage.

At the Conference of Representative Women's Societies, which met in London last week to consider the statutory rules and orders concerning women's wages recently issued by the Ministry of Munitions, it was agreed that there were serious grounds of complaint, both with regard to the delay in issuing the orders, and as to their character, and that there was need to bring pressure to bear on the Ministry of Munitions to make some more equitable arrangement. We publish, on page 217, the Resolutions passed by the Conference.

The Orders, it was pointed out, do not apply to all places, and the public does not know to which districts they do apply, or to which establishments, and it is more than doubtful whether the workers themselves know how they stand. It is a very bad system that allows the Ministry to exempt certain places. Fears were expressed at the meeting that the Orders would enable employers to compel women to work on a task-work basis, so that instead of being able to earn 33⅓ per cent. above the time rate, when employed on piece rate, or on the premium bonus system—as, according to ordinary trade union practice they should be—payments would be so arranged that they would, at the end of the week, only receive the £1 guaranteed under the Order. The £1 would, in fact, prove not to be a minimum but a standard rate.

Cheap Girl Labour.

Another criticism made was that the Order with regard to the payment of girls under eighteen years of age employed on munition work hitherto done by men might have been specially framed to enable employers to make extensive use of cheap girl labour. One Order enacts that "where women are employed on piece work, they shall be paid the same piece-work prices as are customarily paid to men for the same job." Another Order lays down a considerably lower rate for girls under eighteen.

Labyrinth 447.

After prolonged study of this tangled maze of Munitions Order verbiage, one fact at any rate stands out clearly enough. No woman worker, if she is ever allowed a sight of the regulations, will be able to make head or tail of them. Probably this is precisely what is intended. If a conference of experts, after anxious debate, is confessedly unable to interpret Order 447, or to say how it will work out in practice in the factory, what can the factory hand do but take what the employer chooses to pay her? Nobody, outside a select circle, seems to know in what districts the regulations apply. Nobody can say, off-hand, how far they are modified or abrogated by "local" rates of wages. A woman may be paid a pound a week in one place, and 13s. 6d. in another for the same work. In short, if the Munitions Department meant to bewilder the woman worker, they have succeeded past hope. Who benefits by her amazement?

The Human Boy.

Wonderful excursions into the Well-known are being made just now. The latest explorer has just discovered the Boy, and published the results of his researches in the *Daily Chronicle*. The Boy as a worker is something, it seems, of a paradox. He is said to give such close attention to any business he has in hand that he "rapidly becomes exhausted." The strain of his rapt absorption in his work is too much for him. Now, it is explained, we can all understand the mysterious boyish way of going off to seek relief in games of marbles and chuck-farthing. The boys work too hard while at work. "Thus they cannot attain the high output of their sisters in many instances." The girl, on the other hand, "is able to rest her brain although using her hands." While feeding a printing machine, for instance, "she may be thinking of her favourite

cinema hero or her next new frock. . . . Boys cannot do this." Her mental recreations enable her to get through a greater amount of work, precisely because she is not attending to what she is doing. Which will the employer prefer, we wonder—the absent-minded girl with her high output, or the attentive but swiftly-exhausted lad, who does so well for short periods but is so often absent while recuperating? For this, we are warned, is to be one of the problems of the future, "in factory and office."

Overtime and Overwork in U.S.A.

A lurking phrase in a Bill introduced into the 1816 Legislature by a "Special Committee to Investigate Labour Legislation" will have the effect, if passed, of making it legal for women to be employed in canneries until midnight, says Miss Swartz in *The Woman Voter*. Another section of the same Bill suspends the 54-hour limit for women in factories in the case of a breakdown of machinery. In this case, says the same writer, "*voters only* passed judgment on the welfare of 800,000 working women," and she goes on to contrast their methods with those of the Suffragist States of Oregon and California—"two of the largest canning States in the country." In California the Board which fixes wages and limits hours is not made up of employing canners; and three women represent the employees, in the canning industry. These women testified at a recent hearing *that the depreciation of their earning power consequent on the fatigue of long hours was a very real loss;* and overtime rates were fixed at such high rates by the Board that it seems as if overtime would be abolished. In Oregon, the Industrial Welfare Commission, *upon which the women of the State are represented*, has limited women's daily hours to nine in factories, reduced overtime in canneries to six hours per week during six weeks of the year. The employer is not an unbiassed judge of the amount of work which can be performed without exhaustion, and we need look no further than our own Government-controlled munition factories to find willing workers compelled by sheer fatigue to slacken effort in self-defence. Some day a genius may arise to proclaim to the world a gospel of shorter hours and no slacking. But in the meantime, continuous overwork is the best teacher of shirking.

N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospital.

Dr. Agnes Bennett, with her Unit, left for Salonika on August 2nd, to be attached to the Serbian Army. Dr. Lewis, Dr. Nuncaster, and Dr. Scott will accompany the Unit, and Miss Jack goes as administrator. The total personnel numbers fifty-eight. Mrs. Harley, with her transport column, also started for the same destination—the Unit comprising eighteen persons.

The Shortage of Nurses in Military Hospitals.

The shortage of nurses in military hospitals is now so great that the V.A.D. Department at Devonshire House is appealing for untrained women to offer their services. These will, of course, only be used at first for the simplest duties, in order to liberate for more responsible work members of a V.A.D. who have already had some experience, and who will be used, in many cases, to set free nurses of one or two years' training for positions usually held by fully trained nurses, of whom there are not nearly enough. It is hoped that a certain number may be obtained from nursing homes, where two nurses are in some instances doing work that could be done by one, and from among nurses in private practice. Elderly women who have retired and are not strong enough for hospital work, might render very good service by undertaking simple private cases, on which an efficient, able-bodied young woman would be wasted at a time like this.

A most lamentable lack of foresight has been shown by the War Office in the arrangements made for the rush of wounded that the "Great Push" would bring. They estimated for the number of beds that would be required, but failed to take steps in time to secure a sufficient number of nurses. Had they made inquiries in the right quarters, they would have learnt that the supply of nurses with three years' training, though adequate until a few weeks ago, would not be enough for present needs, and they could have applied to the United States for a contingent of "Sisters." It would have been far better to have paid the salaries of this contingent for some weeks before they were actually needed, than to risk our wounded lacking the most highly skilled attention.

While the supply of first-rate, fully trained nurses could only be made good from abroad, the War Office might, of course, have obtained as large a number of semi-trained nurses as it required in this country. Had there been any warning from the War Office of the impending shortage of help in military hospitals, the V.A.D. Department at Devonshire House could have launched its appeal months ago, and thousands of women would have started training, so that by now there would be a body of disciplined workers to draw upon, both for nursing and orderly work. It is very hard upon the "Sisters" at a time of high pressure like this to have to superintend absolute amateurs, a proportion of whom are sure to prove quite incompetent. The novice, too, will have much to suffer, for many "Sisters" are not as kind as they might be to V.A.D. members at the best of times, and when there is an unprecedented rush of work to cope with, even the most gentle person is apt to be short tempered. Hospital discipline cannot fail to suffer from the shifting about of the staff and introduction of inexperienced helpers that is going on, just at a time when everybody should know her job and everything be running like clockwork; and even if the wounded do not actually lack skilled attention, the general atmosphere of worry and stress must react upon them.

Even at this late date something might be done to improve the lot of the V.A.D. members who are already working in hospitals, and make it possible for a larger number to offer themselves. Women of the charwoman class could be employed for scrubbing, for instance, which is a waste of time for those who are capable of undertaking nursing duties. Where orderlies are employed there should be a distinct understanding as to what their duties are, and what fall to the lot of a nurse, whether partially trained professional, or V.A.D. Too much authority in setting the nurses' duties is sometimes left to the ward Sister, who is not always above "putting a V.A.D. in her place" by setting her to tasks that, by the custom of the hospital, a nurse does not usually perform. We have heard of a "V.A.D.," with eighteen months' actual nursing experience, set by a "Sister" to scrub, together with male orderlies, of whom there were plenty to do the work. Treatment like this lowers the prestige of a nurse—who is supposed in a military hospital to rank as an officer—and makes her position very difficult. Of course, absolute obedience to the "Sister" in charge must be insisted on, and the fully trained nurse often finds the amateur very trying, but a general order in each hospital might define the duties and status of nursing members of the V.A.D., and make such acts of petty tyranny as we have quoted impossible. If a girl goes into a hospital as orderly she must expect to perform all the duties usually undertaken by a male hospital orderly; but if she is accepted as nurse she should be treated as a professional nurse would be treated in a military hospital, and Matron and Sisters should clearly understand that she is to have that status. The best of them do so understand; they have been generous in their appreciation of the help the V.A.D.'s have given, and have taken great pains to train them; but others have shown a pettiness and jealousy that have made the lot of the V.A.D. member unnecessarily hard.

A greater number of women would be enabled to offer themselves for work in military hospitals if the remuneration were better. In the larger hospitals £20 is offered, with food, lodging, and washing, and £4 towards maintenance of uniform; but members have to provide their uniform, which entails considerable expense, as in addition to a large supply of washing dresses and caps and aprons, out-door uniform, including coat and skirt and long overcoat, is necessary. Some of the auxiliary hospitals are still offering neither salary nor sleeping accommodation, and even professional nurses and trained masseuses are in some cases being asked to give their services.

Within the past fortnight a large number of "V. A. D.'s" have been passed by the Selection Board, and sent to hospitals abroad, and the home hospitals are now being gradually supplied. Members of a V.A.D. must apply through the Commandant of their detachment. Women who have not already joined a Detachment may apply direct to Devonshire House, Piccadilly, if they are in London. If they are in the country, they should communicate with the Commandant of their district, whose address can be obtained from Devonshire House.

M. M.

Working Night and Day at Royaumont.

Three weeks ago the number of our soldier patients was reduced to five—that is to say, our hospital, like others in the district, was cleared in expectation of the coming advance on the Somme. With the advance on July 2nd, came the first influx of patients; the cars went ceaselessly backwards and forwards to the station, and within twenty-four hours 121 cases were brought from Creil to Royaumont. Since then our numbers have been mounting steadily till they exceed 300, with prospect of mounting still higher.

Surgeons and nurses worked night and day—and not only surgeons and nurses, but every member of the staff. Some idea of the work entailed on it may be given by the following figures. During the first week of the advance over 200 cases were admitted; 231 bacteriological and 406 X-ray examinations were made; and 160 operations were performed. The greater number of the cases have been exceedingly grave—some of the men have arrived actually dying. In times of great pressure it is only the cases which cannot travel further which are removed from the train at Creil, in the hope that early operation may save the lives of those affected by gas gangrene. Such cases, if left only for a few hours, are hopeless.

The increase in the number of beds has necessitated the opening of a new ward. The staff's former dining-room, the old Abbey refectory, now holds ninety beds, and is known as the Canada Ward; it was opened last week by Mr. W. E. Matthews, and decorated with the Canadian flag. There was too much work on hand and too much suffering around for any elaborate ceremony; but Mr. Matthews will carry to the Canadian donors the assurance that their gift was not only welcome, but needed, the best proof of need being found in the fact that many of the beds were occupied before the formal opening. By the way, the staff, ejected from its former dining-room, now lunches and sups in a corner of the cloisters—the corner not given up to beds.

Our patients, French soldiers though they all are, are more varied than usual as to race. A whole ward—Elsie Inglis—is given up to Senegalese, one of them reputed to be royal in his own country. Then we have twenty Arabs or so from Algeria, and the Foreign Legion has sent us a Spaniard or two.

As I said above, there is every prospect that the work at Royaumont will grow heavier as time goes on. We are serving the army of the Somme district, where fighting is incessant and shows no signs of abatement. Every struggle and advance on the Somme means added work for the hospitals in the rear of the Somme line—of which Royaumont is among the largest.

One of our recent visitors gave us a testimonial to the work of the hospital, which, in its own way, is as valuable as any we have had. She was a peasant woman from the Marne country, who came to see her wounded son; and she told one of our orderlies that in her village were the graves of four British soldiers who died there in 1914. Crosses, she said, were to mark the spot when once the war was over; but meanwhile we must not think that their memory should be neglected. Since she had seen the care with which her boy was tended at Royaumont, she should make it her business, in token of gratitude, to see that the graves of our countrymen were never in need of flowers.

Cicely Hamilton.

Our "Millicent Fawcett" Units in Russia.

Several letters from members of our Russian Units have been received within the last few days. Dr. Stepney writes from the Children's Hospital in Kazan: "My family here is growing, with an increase of five yesterday. One is very seriously ill—acute enteritis. She is a little Jewess, nearly as dark as a Hindoo, and was brought in from the country by a sobbing father. I was up with her till past midnight, and then left her in the capable hands of Sister Argent. The air is thick with telegrams and other forms of correspondence from all parts of Russia, and plans, *personnel*, and packing revolve dizzily around me! Do you know that we have bought a goat? It cost eight roubles. A dear, grey thing, so intelligent. She follows me about like a dog, and sometimes puts her head into the consulting-room, baa-ing for me to come and gather for her the flowering lime branches that she cannot reach for herself. Quite often, too, she walks into the dining-room, after the samovar, to receive from my hand any stray crusts—white in preference to black if there is a choice. The milk is excellent.

The Staff at the Maternity Hospital have been busy, as the following extract from Miss Knight's letter shows: "The cases come in two at a time, and sometimes three babies are born one after the other. Out of the total number of cases the mortality of babies has been: two premature babies, two still-born, and two others dying at the moment of birth. The people working at the feeding point say that they can always tell one of our babies at a glance, they look so flourishing! We had a very painful case the day before yesterday: a woman brought in in a fit at six o'clock one morning who never regained consciousness, and died at midnight. The baby was born alive and well. We are keeping the baby in the meantime, as the father does not want it. Three babies have been born since ten o'clock last night, and it is now 10 a.m. There is no doubt that the Hospital is appreciated by the women, and we are constantly getting friends of women who have been in the Hospital. Twins were born the other day, and everyone, except the mother, is delighted—even the father, who, on seeing the orphan baby, suggested that his wife should take it, too!"

Miss Moberly tells us that the Zemstvo are equipping the hospitals in Tchistopol and elsewhere beautifully for us, even providing small libraries of French and Russian books for the benefit of the doctors and nurses. She is only afraid that "They are making things too comfortable for us." Our Units evoke profound respect and admiration wherever they go, and Mr. Lombard, British Chaplain in Petrograd, who came in to see us the other day, testifies to the splendid work they are doing. In the early days of our Russian work he was of great assistance to members of the first Unit.

The Motor-Ambulance was despatched on Friday last, packed full of bales of clothing, which has been so generously given us by kind friends all over the country. The ambulance goes as Russian Government cargo, and will be consigned to the Government agent at Archangel, so that its safe and speedy arrival should be assured. The purchase has been completed, owing to a generous gift from the London Committee of the Great Britain to Poland Fund of £142. The Russian Government are giving us free transport from Liverpool to Archangel, which has considerably decreased the total cost of the provision of the ambulance. The hospital to which it will be attached is to be at Zaleshcekie, near Czernowitz, on the Roumanian side.

They ARE Starving

"You can't imagine what a help they are, in these hard times." (From a Lance-Corporal.)

IT has been definitely stated in Parliament that our fighting men captured by the Germans are being deliberately kept short of food. These brave fellows are ever on the verge of starvation.

"If it had not been for parcels of food sent from this country the prisoners would in many instances have starved."—Mr. Tennant in the House of Commons.

Mr. Tennant is hopeful that there will be no relaxation of the efforts being made to send parcels to British Prisoners of War. The warm-hearted public will not need to be reminded of this truly national obligation.

The more generous support of the Fund of the Royal Savoy Association (which sends 350 parcels of food each week to British Prisoners of War) will make it possible to extend its scope and bring relief to more men in their pitiful plight. British prisoners are really starving. *You'll* never permit this!

The R.S.A. parcels (value 7/6) include everything that is known to be necessary for the welfare and comfort of the prisoners. Any sum, large or small, will be gratefully received by

"I was in prison and ye came unto Me."

REV. HUGH B. CHAPMAN,
ROYAL SAVOY ASSOCIATION,
7, SAVOY HILL, LONDON, W.C.

First-Hand Experiences.

XIV.—COLLEGE WOMEN'S SUMMER WORK.

On June 13th we started off—a party of thirteen—from Newnham College, Cambridge, to work on the land. None of the party had ever been engaged in this kind of work before, but all were full of enthusiasm and expectation.

We started work the following morning. We did not have to be down at the farm before seven o'clock, as the fruit season was backward, and a total day of 7½ hours was at first all that was required of us. The farm was half a mile away from where we were lodged, so that, although most of us had bicycles, this necessitated our getting up about 6.20. A hastily snatched glass of milk or Oxo and a piece of dry bread was all we were allowed before starting. The clothes worn by the party were somewhat varied; the greater number being munition overalls of various colours, shortened so as just to come below the knee. Others wore tunics. All possessed sunbonnets, though those wishing to become very brown seldom wore them. Mackintoshes and oilskins came out on wet days.

Our first spell of work lasted from 7 o'clock till 8.30, when we came back for our breakfast, which consisted of porridge, bread and butter and marmalade and tea, and sometimes, if there was a good deal of food in the store cupboard, an egg, or some fried potatoes. Work began again at 9.30, and continued till 12 o'clock. We then had a bread and cheese lunch, with either a cup of tea or lemonade, down at the farm, which one of our number used to bring to us daily. We only had half-an-hour for lunch, beginning again at 12.30 and going on till 4 o'clock, when our work was over for the day. The evening did not hang heavily on our hands, however, as we all went to bed at remarkably early hours, the latest members of the party being in bed by 9.30, while the earlier members retired somewhere about 8 o'clock.

We had plenty of variety in the kind of work we did, specially during the first part of the time we were there, before the great fruit rush came. Green gooseberries were at their best when we arrived, and our first job was to pull these. They told us that this was an excellent year for gooseberries, and that they had not had so many for a long time. Certainly, to judge by the way the boughs were weighted down with the fruit, the statement seemed to be justified.

From pulling gooseberries we went on to spreading straw for strawberries. This we found much harder work, and specially we found that crawling along "nesting" the strawberries was very severe upon the knees. We therefore all promptly made ourselves knee-pads, after which we felt no more ill-effects of crawling.

We also did some haymaking, and, by working very hard one afternoon, managed to get the whole of it made into cocks before the rain came. Hoeing was done chiefly when it was too wet to do anything else. Besides hoeing among the fruit trees, we also hoed the potatoes and the corn.

As soon as the "strawberry rush" came, almost all our energies were employed in fruit-picking. Our day also was lengthened to a total of 9½ hours, beginning at 6.30 a.m. and ending at 7.30 p.m. Fruit-picking was, however, varied by fruit-packing. We used to sit on the ground in a row, each person doing a portion of the process as the "chips" were passed along the line.

Our wages increased with our increased work. During the earlier part of the time we were there we were paid time wages at the rate of 15s. per head per week. With the advent of the busy season, however, we were put on piece wages, the rate for strawberries being 1½d. for 4-lbs.

It is not possible to say how much we made individually on this system, as we pooled all our earnings; the average earnings per head, however, during the first week on piecework was 18s. per head. The following weeks were expected to yield considerably more, as the fruit season would then be at its height.

During the time we were there we lived on our wages, and had about 4s. pocket money each at the end of the week. Our housing accommodation was given to us free, so we only had to provide food and coal out of our wages, and also the wages of a woman who used to come in by the day.

One of our party acted as storekeeper the whole time, and each of us took it in turn to be cook except two, who protested so loudly that they knew nothing about cooking, that the rest, fearing they would get nothing to eat, let them off.

We were housed in a hall in the village, which we found most comfortable accommodation, except when the rain pattered down on the tin roof at night-time.

The main body of the hall was divided into three parts: the middle portion forming our dining-room, the other two parts our dormitories, where we lay round the walls on mattresses stuffed with straw. We each had a couple of chairs and some pegs for our clothes. At one end of the hall there was the common washing-room, and also another small room where two of our party slept.

At present, some of our original party are still there, while relays from other colleges have replaced those who have left. The best testimony to the enthusiasm, and also proof of enjoyment, which can be shown, is the determination of many of the party to go again next year if still needed.

R. Buchan-Sydserff.

A WOMEN'S MOTOR GARAGE.

A woman in charge of a motor car is quite a familiar sight nowadays, and though the police authorities still refuse to license women as taxi-cab drivers, many are driving motor ambulances and big trade vans. Many, too, have learnt to understand the mechanism of a car, and are able to do their own repairs.

At South Kensington a motor garage, manned by women, has been established by the Women's Volunteer Reserve, under Mrs. Charlesworth, who for years has driven her own car and is an expert in all that pertains to motors. On visiting her garage at Cromwell Mews recently I found it a model of cleanliness and order. Here are kept two motor ambulances and three cars, one of which is Mrs. Charlesworth's own possession.

About twenty women attended at the garage daily for tuition in motoring. First, they are given a course of ten lessons, and then the commanding officer puts them through an examination. After that, with the aid of a motorman near by, Mrs. Charlesworth teaches them the practical part of motoring, and then they are quite able to take an engine to pieces or to do any repair at a minute's notice. Pupils come to the garage from all parts of the country because of the thorough training that is given.

A story is told by Mrs. Charlesworth, which shows with what interest and enthusiasm, together with common-sense, her pupils are working. One day the motorman had a car to take entirely to pieces. Being very busy, he had to leave it to the pupils to do, telling them on his departure that it would take them at least four days to complete the job. On returning later in the day, much to his surprise, he found the whole taken down.

The pupils are entrusted to do all kinds of jobs. On one occasion they had to take a wounded man on a long journey, and every care had to be taken, as the passenger was in a serious condition; but the journey was most successful.

Mrs. Charlesworth is open to receive all kinds of repairs. Nothing is too small and nothing too great for her students to work upon. It is her aim to make the garage a business concern, where car owners can leave their cars, and have them kept clean and in good repair, and have them driven to any place required, at any hour of the day. This will continue after the war, and it is expected that many car owners will avail themselves of the services of the garage. Cars also can be hired at the rate of 8d. per mile.

B. P.

REVIEW.

The "Women of the Empire in War Time," a thick volume in a handsome cover (issued by the Dominion of Canada News Co., Aldwych, London. 1s. 6d.) gives such a very complete survey of the work done by the women of the Commonwealth that it is an indispensable work of reference, as well as a record. "The world realises to-day that in the splendid quality of its women lies its chief hope for the future. And it is in the hope of getting the public generally to realise what women are to-day, and the extent and the superb value of their work, that I am publishing this souvenir of what the women of the Empire are doing for their countrymen in this terrible war," writes the editor, in a brief preface and setting out the purpose of the work, which is amply fulfilled. Mrs. Fawcett has written a new and interesting account of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies' widespread activities, with special reference to our Hospitals abroad. "The Women's Service Bureau," "The Star and Garter Hospital," are two articles which will attract all our readers. Specially useful and helpful also are the articles on the work of the Women of the Overseas Dominions—Australia, New Zealand, Canada, South Africa—all fully illustrated with beautifully clear half-tone blocks. Other articles range from an account of the American Women's splendid hospital, founded by the Duchess of Marlborough, to the Dental Surgery work at Endell Street Military Hospital, which is entirely staffed by women; from the Story of the London Station Buffets to the Classes of Cookery for Soldiers. "Let us show ourselves worthy of citizenship, whether our claim to it be recognised or not," was Mrs. Fawcett's message to all our Societies at the beginning of war. The reader of "Women of the Empire in War Time" will see at a glance how British women asserted their citizenship.

For "The Common Cause."

For nearly two years we have been able to come through unprosperous times without making any public appeal for financial aid. Our difficulties have hitherto been met, thanks to the loyalty and zeal of thousands of faithful friends, who have kept up their interest in The Common Cause through all the heavy pressure of work and war burdens. With care and foresight on the part of the management, expenses have been reduced and difficulties met; but no foresight could have foretold that a Paper Crisis would further complicate the other problems arising out of labour shortage and rising prices.

Comparatively few Suffrage meetings are held nowadays, and opportunities for direct propaganda work are so much curtailed, that members of the Union are not brought as frequently in close touch with each other as heretofore. It is felt that

"The Common Cause" has a specially important part to play in war-time in keeping the members and Societies of the Union in touch with one another and headquarters.

We wish to acknowledge with cordial thanks the further sum of £36 13s., making £253 3s. 8d. out of the £500, for which we appeal; and the very kind wishes and practical suggestions we receive from friends all over Great Britain.

"I enclose cheque for £1 10s. as a donation (part collection of annual meeting) to The Common Cause Fund. We hope it is only a first instalment, and that we may be able to send a little more later on."

"I have pleasure in enclosing donation from the Society and from some members. The G.W.S.S. felt that if The Common Cause was discontinued it would be a great loss. You may be interested that copies are to be sent weekly to four clubs in the city, and for years has been sent to the public reading-room."

"I enclose P.O. for a tiny contribution to your £500 Fund for The Common Cause, the importance of which to Women's Suffrage and the N.U.W.S.S. I deeply appreciate."

"I feel that so much of the N.U. work of safeguarding and advancing the work of Women's Suffrage depends upon The Common Cause continuing and being widely circulated."

(From Headquarters, Friends' Ambulance Units, B.E.F.)

"As a regular reader of The C.C. for the last five years, I have pleasure in enclosing £2 as a small contribution towards your special Fund for its continued publication. During the war many of us would be entirely out of touch with any Suffrage work were it not for the paper."

From Canada.

"Permit me to say that I greatly enjoy the paper, and place it in the Reading-room of the Hall Residence for Women of Victoria College, University of Toronto."

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	216	8	8
Miss E. Barker	15	0	0
Miss D. G. Lawson	2	0	0
Miss M. A. Pagan		5	0
Miss Margaret Weddel' ...		10	0
Mrs. Walter Barrow	1	1	0
Anon., Southport	1	1	0
Mrs. Auerbach	5	0	0
Mrs. Charles Thompson ...	1	1	0
Miss Mary Hare		10	0
Miss G. M. Clayton		2	0
Dorking, Leith Hill, and District W.S.S.	5	0	0
Miss A. Nora Lovell		2	6
Mrs. Cotterill		5	0
Miss V. Dutton	2	0	0
Gloucester W.S.S. (£1), Mrs. C. Jones (£1), Mrs. Sidney Hartland (2s. 6d.), Mrs. Evans (2s. 6d.), Mrs. Dilloway (2s. 6d.), Miss Baddeley (2s. 6d.), Miss Walrond (2s. 6d.)	2	12	6
Mrs. Ernest Schuster		5	0
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ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Miss Mary Sutherland, B.Sc., is the first woman in the United Kingdom to take a degree in Forestry, says *The City Press*. She is engaged in research work in connection with the influence of heredity on the growth of trees. She has been studying agriculture and forestry at Bangor University College.

At the Annual General Meeting of the International Tea Co., Ltd., the Chairman reported that nearly 2,000 of their men had gone to join the Army, and to-day nearly half their branches were not only staffed by women but managed by them, and, in most cases, managed very efficiently.

THE WAGES OF WOMEN WORKERS.

A meeting of representative Societies was held last week, at the Fabian Hall, to consider the statutory rules and orders concerning women's wages recently issued by the Ministry of Munitions. The following resolutions were passed:—

1. That this Conference of Representative Women's Societies deplores that the Ministry of Munitions should fix (as it does in the Statutory Rules and Orders No. 447, Secs. I. and II.) a standard time rate for women over eighteen at 4½d. per hour, which, assuming an increase of only 33 per cent. on pre-war prices, is equivalent, on a forty-eight-hour week, to a weekly wage of 13s. 6d. at the most.

Further, that this meeting calls upon the Ministry to order that the earnings of all women on piecework and premium bonus prices systems shall be based on such a scale as shall allow them to earn at least 33 per cent. above their time rates.

This Conference also urges that the Order shall be made mandatory over all areas.

2. That this Conference protests, in the interests of men and women alike, against the payment to girls under eighteen of a lower rate than that paid to adult men doing the same work. (Statutory Rules and Orders 456.)

3. That this Conference protests against the reduction or absence of wages during waiting time, which is contrary to the custom of the trade. (Section II., Statutory Rules and Orders No. 411.)

The following Societies were represented at the Conference, the chair being taken by Mrs. Sidney Webb:—

The Federation of Women Workers, the Workers' Union, the National Anti-Sweating League, Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employees, the Women's Labour League, the National Union of Women Workers, the National Union of Women Suffrage Societies, London Society for Women's Suffrage, Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association, Workers' Suffrage Federation, New Constitutional Society for Women's Suffrage, Young Women's Christian Association, Catholic Women's League, Union of Jewish Women, Girls' Friendly Society, Fabian Society, Committee on Wage-Earning Children, the Church Army, and Amalgamated Society of Engineers.

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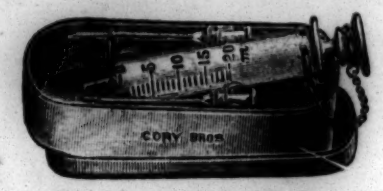

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All Business Communications *to be addressed to The Manager,* The Common Cause, *14, Great Smith St., Westminster, S.W., and all* Advertisements *must reach the Office not later than first post on Wednesday. Advertisement representatives, S. R. Le Mare and Miss Frances L. Fuller (West End).*

The N.U.W.S.S. is an association of over 50,000 men and women who have banded themselves together, under the leadership of Mrs. Henry Fawcett, for the purpose of obtaining the Parliamentary vote for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men. At this great national crisis, however, they have for the time suspended their ordinary political activities, and are devoting their organisation to various efforts which have for their object the sustaining of the vital strength of the nation.

Watch and Ward.

The various attempts of the Government to make what have been called "temporary stop-gap contrivances," seem for the moment to have come to a pause; but that is no reason for relaxing our watch on developments that may affect the Register and the franchise. Various projects have been brought forward for getting round the difficulties in the way of a General Election, and the Prime Minister has hinted, not obscurely, that he may have recourse to a dissolution of Parliament. The difficulties in the way of every course are considerable—the remedies, nearly all of them, are heroic rather than practical, from Sir Edward Carson's motion to enfranchise all sailors and soldiers serving in his Majesty's forces to the opposite extreme course of leaving the Register exactly where it is, with or without somebody's ingenious suggestion that all absent voters should be permitted to record their votes on the pink slips, so that though there would no doubt be a prolonged battle-royal over the questions of validity, this would take place after the elections were over instead of being waged as usual beforehand, under the auspices of the Revising Barrister.

Of all framers of emergency measures we have, however, a right to demand that they shall not make any alteration in the basis of the franchise without considering the claims of women. The long-over-due schemes of electoral reform, postponed again on the outbreak of war, could not have been put forward without a full consideration of the whole question. The Trade Union Congress deputation, which waited upon Mr. Asquith in February, 1914, "protested against the Prime Minister's failure to redeem his repeated pledges to women, and called upon the Parliamentary Committee to press for the immediate enactment of a Government Reform Bill, *which must include the enfranchisement of women.*" That deputation spoke in the name of nearly 2,000,000 organised working men, belonging to practically all the trade unions in the country. Under no form of democratic government could their demand have been ignored for any length of time. The war has changed nearly everything, as we hear on all sides. But the changes wrought in the attitude of the country towards Women's Suffrage have been outstanding and remarkable, even in these times. Recognition has been swift on all sides. Is it because "the women" have borne, and are bearing, their full share of all the burdens and anguish of war? There is nothing new in that. In all wars the women's share has been perhaps the heaviest. Certainly it is to-day in the north of France, and in the city of Lille, where young girls are being carried off for unknown destinations by the German soldiery—taken at a moment's notice from their mothers and their quiet homes. The misery of war and its worst horrors fall heaviest upon women, who have neither voice nor choice in the control of national affairs. We in England have not, so far, known the curse of invasion, and are slow to realise what it means. But to have suffered the utmost from the "insensate devilry" of war has not meant recognition of citizen rights for the victims. The innocent suffer and are helpless. What is new is the recognition of the spirit in which women have set themselves to bear the burdens and to face the problems of national need—the solidarity of the women of the Commonwealth. What is new is the recognition (willing or reluctant) by statesmen and financiers that without "the women" and their intelligent co-operation their own efforts

will fail. The discernment of these truths has already "broadened the basis of the franchise." To recognise this fact on the Register is the statesman's imperative duty.

Let us quote (making but one small alteration) from the *Westminster Gazette*, which, writing of Ireland, says that "when the time is ripe" a peaceful settlement is looked forward to; and adds: "Those who desire [Women's Suffrage] after the war, *have a duty to see it is not compromised during the war.*" That this duty is laid upon us no one can doubt, or that, at the same time, the other duty, "to prevent renewal of strife and bitterness," devolves equally upon the Government.

The whole trend of recent events has shown a reluctance on the part of politicians to raise controversial questions. While the great Question of the age asks for all our thoughts, all our energies, all our money and time, a truce is almost a vital necessity for us. It rests with those in authority to see to it that the truce shall not be broken—to recognise that the responsibility for breaking it is a very serious matter.

Cheaper Meals—Why Not?

While we grumble at high prices and form consumers' protection leagues and grumble at the Government—all no doubt useful measures in their way—is there nothing we can do on our own side to reduce the cost of living? New light is certainly gained on several aspects of our problems, by a visit to one of the Working Girls' Dining Rooms, to which Mrs. Arnold Glover has devoted thought, time, energies, and the experience gained in long years of work for the girls and young women employed in exhibitions. A representative of The Common Cause went the other day to see a Dining Room at the dinner hour. It is a cool, lofty room in one of the busy little thoroughfares at the back of Oxford Street, where much of the work is done or prepared for the big shops, and the last touches put to delicate, fragile splendours for the plate-glass windows. The little thoroughfares are the feeder-streets of Vanity Fair, so it is altogether appropriate that the workers should themselves be fed in the tall, narrow business-house transformed into a Working Girls' Restaurant and Club. Every other doorway in the street is armoured with burnished brass plates, with the names of the firms to be found on each floor. This particular doorway, if you look close, only displays a blackboard with the day's menu—one dish of meat with two vegetables, and a slice of bread, with a pudding to follow. In war time there is but one plat du jour.

Each customer pays sixpence to the cashier on entering, and receiving a ticket in exchange, goes through into the dining-room, and hands her ticket across the serving counter to the Clerk of the Kitchen, who gives a portion of meat and vegetables in exchange, with a *second* ticket entitling the owner to a "helping" of pudding. The whole ritual of dining is so interesting, and such a very carefully brought out plan for reducing superfluous expense and service, that it seems worth while to describe it.

From baskets at the counter the diner selects a knife, fork, and spoon, and takes her place at one of the tables. Sometimes two or three friends will combine. One takes the places for the whole party, another collects the cutlery and tumblers, while a third hands in four "checks" to the clerk at once, and saves time and trouble. There are no waitresses. When the first course is finished, the customer gives in her plate at another counter, where it is taken and washed up straight away, and then goes to receive an ample portion of pudding and fruit, fruit tart or jam roll.

The saving of time, expense, and energy made by washing up as dinner proceeds, instead of afterwards, is considerable, Mrs. Arnold Glover says. "There are few breakages; less crockery is wanted, and so less shelf accommodation, which is not a small saving where every inch of room must pay its rent."

The big arch above the Clerk of the Kitchen, behind the counter, is a framework for a view of the kitchen itself. The sight is enough to give one an appetite. The gleaming copper vessels, the white walls and white scrubbed tables make up a "Dutch picture" charming enough in itself; but the girls like the view for another reason, Mrs. Arnold Glover says. "They like to see for themselves that the carving is really from the joint, and that they don't get warmed-up slices."

The dining-room itself is almost as picturesque. Separate tables, arranged so that groups of friends can sit together, are covered with blue and white checked cloths, contrasting delightfully with white walls and green paint. "Le stricte nécessaire," Mrs. Glover says proudly. But how beautifully the "nécessaire" is interpreted; white, blue, green, and a gleam of copper—a prettier room than a "rococo" restaurant can boast. Nobody would suppose for a moment that not so very long ago the whole floor was given up to heavy machinery; that certain mysterious arches and recesses were originally meant to accommodate the engines, while the big, solid piers, which give the room something of the effect of a convent refectory, were made to support the weights borne by upper floors. Now, the only machinery is the hand-worked lift, which carries up dinners to the dining-room upstairs.

Dinners are over by two o'clock. But in a very short time the cook is busy again. All the buns and cakes for tea are home-made. Three-halfpence for a good cup of tea and a cake, twopence, or even twopence-halfpenny for bread and butter, cake, and jam! "Now and then," she says, "by some accident, we have had to buy cakes elsewhere, but our girls wouldn't touch them. "Bought cakes!" they cried, "Oh no! Haven't you any home-made?" The good tea is Mrs. Arnold Glover's own special secret; hot, fresh, fragrant—no one could desire better. And all of these teas are sold at a profit, remember; not a big profit, of course, but still at a profit, for the dining-room pays its way, and pays a dividend.

"What is the secret of it all?"

"If there is any secret, which I doubt," says Mrs. Glover, "I think it is this. The girls all ask at once if the dining-rooms are a matter of business, or if they are carried on for philanthropy. And when they are told that we are doing it for profit, they are satisfied. They go away and tell other girls, and so the thing grows."

"Why are they so anxious to know if you make it pay?"

"Oh, I think one can quite understand it. There is no feeling of constraint. The girls feel they have a right to come (it's not a privilege), and they can bring a friend along without feeling they are indebted to someone for charity. We have five more Working Girls' Dining-Rooms," Mrs. Glover says, "all larger than this one, but they are all run to make their expenses and a small profit. *We never open a dining-room except at the request of girls themselves;* and then, only when there is demand enough to begin with. Just now we are getting applications from the City."

Thousands of girls have gone into business, and find that they cannot get a sufficient lunch in the middle of the day at a teashop. They are obliged to wait, at the thronged hours, in a stifling atmosphere, often to be told that everything in the bill is "off"; when they content themselves with a scone and butter and a cup of tea. For this apology for a meal they pay fivepence. It is difficult to get enough to satisfy hunger by laying out a shilling, even if the consumer is spartan enough to resist the craving for tea which costs threepence. What a boon a "dining-room" will be to the City girl!

How great the success of the experiment has been, was shown by a curious incident. A very well-known business house, employing large numbers of women and girls, sent round a representative to make inquiries. "*The girls were working so much better in the afternoon!*" And the firm was so puzzled and interested that they wanted to "know the reason why." It seemed to astonish the employer that the improvement was traceable to food—only food! One practical employer decided to buy a hundred tickets at a time for the young women who work for him, at sixpence each, and to sell them to the girls at fivepence. He says that it pays him to do this—the girls get so much more work done.

Perhaps the best of the good work done by the Working Girls' Dining-Rooms is the object lesson. The worth of good plain food, well cooked, a craving implanted for a wholesome meal, instead of sweets, biscuits, and ice cream, is a fine bit of education for the girl worker. But there is more to learn even than that. Why are such exorbitant prices charged for catering, that almost all existing attempts at communal housekeeping are dismissed at once by the thrifty as totally impracticable? If it is possible to provide a good hot meal, dinner, or lunch for sixpence, in districts where rents are fabulously high, and yet make a small profit, what could we not do in "residential" regions. Why are we all wasting service, coal, and house room, on separate, expensive, and for the most part ill-cooked meals? And how long will our prejudices, and incomes, hold out against co-operative cooking?

Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
President: Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.

Hon. Secretaries:
Miss Evelyn Atkinson.
Mrs. Oliver Strachey (Parliamentary)

Hon. Treasurer:
Mrs. Auerbach.
Secretary:
Miss Helen Wright.

Offices: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, London. Telephone—4673 Vic. & 4674 Vic.

Literature Department.

Societies holding meetings are advised to write in good time to the Department for a supply of literature to sell. This may be had on sale or return. Since the issue of catalogues has been discontinued, it may be found, perhaps, a little difficult to select the latest publications. The Literature Department will be very pleased to undertake the selection of a variety of pamphlets for any meeting. Secretaries wishing for a parcel of literature to be chosen for their meeting, should mention the subject and speaker. We can now supply *Women of the Empire in War-Time* (see advt.). Price 1s. 6d. Postage 5d.

Contributions to the General Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged since November 1st, 1915	1,636	18	0
Received from July 24th to 29th, 1916:—			
Subscriptions			
Mrs. Arthur Gibson	2	2	0
Miss Margaret E. L. Hare ...		3	0
Mrs. Greig		5	0
Mrs. McCarthy		5	0
Miss E. A. Clayden		1	0
Affiliation Fees.			
Bath W.S.S.	1	1	9
Solihull W.S.S.		12	6
General Service Fund Donations.			
Miss C. Courtauld	25	0	0
Miss E. Barker	60	0	0
Miss E. E. Linnell		10	6
Professor B. Foxley		10	0
Mrs. Bateson	3	3	0
Miss Benham		5	0
Mrs. Walter Barrow	1	1	0
Mrs. J. H. Deane		5	0
Lady Courtney of Penwith ...	2	0	0
Mrs. Buckton	1	1	0
Miss Kate Imray		5	0
Miss Isabel Gwynne	1	0	0
Mrs. M. W. Godwin	1	1	0
Mrs. Kayser	1	1	0
Miss E. H. Blane		2	6
Miss E. M. Macnaghten ...	1	0	0
Miss W. G. Beddington ...	1	0	0
Mrs. C. W. Benson	10	0	0
Mrs. Frank Dawes	5	0	0
Mrs. Howard	1	0	0
Mrs. Garrido	1	1	0
Miss M. H. Drew	1	1	0
Miss E. Q. Henriques		10	6
Mrs. Davidson	1	1	0
Lieut.-Col. Linley Blathwayt...	1	1	0
Mrs. A. M. Hubbard	1	0	0
Mrs. Jerwood	1	1	0
Mrs. George Musgrave ...	5	5	0
Mrs. Hodgson	1	0	0
Miss S. M. Jebb	1	1	0
Mrs. Frances Hoggan, M.D. ...	2	0	0
Mrs. A. M. Overton	1	1	0
Mrs. Hartree	1	1	0
Mrs. Harmer	1	0	0
Mrs. Catharine A. Lane ...		10	0
Lady Emily Wyndham Quin...	1	0	0
Mrs. V. Jackson	2	0	0
Miss F. Blackett		2	6
Miss M. Nichaelis	1	1	0
Miss E. Gaskell	10	0	0
Mrs. A. Hill	1	0	0
Miss Laura F. Morison ...	10	10	0
Mrs. Jevons	1	1	0
Mrs. H. E. Dowson	5	0	0
Mrs. M. S. Hamilton		10	0
Miss Emily Lever	2	2	0
Mrs. Bolitho	5	0	0
Mrs. M. L. Irwin		5	0
Miss Mary Fletcher	2	2	0
Mrs. Gledstone		5	0
Mrs. Green	1	1	0
Viscountess Dillon	5	0	0
Miss M. B. Henson		2	6
Miss Mary Fretwell		10	0
Miss Charlotte Ellis	1	0	0
Mrs. Greig		5	0
Mrs. McCarthy		5	0
Mrs. L. A. H. Mason		3	6
Mrs. Paynter	2	2	0
Miss E. D. Gibb	1	0	0
Solihull W.S.S., earmarked for Maternity Work	35	0	0
Received for Scottish Hospital	16	0	0
	£1,880	14	3

Only two Affiliation Fees have been received this week. May we remind Societies that our financial year is entering its last quarter, and many fees are still due. Reminders will be sent shortly, but to save labour and postage Societies whose fees are still unpaid are asked to send them up at once.

The following Societies have promised to hold Jumble Sales: Mid Bucks, Gateshead, Guildford, Bradford, and Goole.

Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units for Refugees in Russia.

THIRTIETH LIST.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged ...	8,012	10	4
Horsforth B.W.T.A., Collection at Miss G. Cooke's Meeting	3	10	8
Carnforth W.S.S., Collection at Miss G. Cooke's Meeting ...	4	11	6
Miss Catharine Courtauld ...	50	0	0
Miss Mary Bates		10	0
Miss E Barker	25	0	0
Miss Jessie Dow, Montreal ...	10	0	0
Huish Champflower Sunday School Children		5	0
Rev. John de la Bere (2nd donation)	2	2	0
Miss Dorothy G. Lawson ...	5	0	0
Exmouth W.S.S., Collection at Mrs. Fawcett's Lecture ...	8	0	0
Miss M. Dorothea Jordan ...	1	10	0
Mr. Henry Jordan, per Miss M. Dorothea Jordan		2	6
Anonymous	3	3	0
Miss E. Pearson		5	0
Miss A. Gardiner		5	0
Mrs. Salaman Cohen, per Mrs. Adler	1	0	0
Miss M. Rackham...		10	0
Miss Bucknill	3	0	0
Oxted and Limpsfield W.S.S., to adopt a Nurse (1st monthly instalment) ...	14	0	0
Highgate Branch Ldn. Scy. for W.S., Miss Masse ...	1	0	0
Miss Marion McTurk Alexander	2	2	0
Mrs. Auerbach	5	0	0
Solihull W.S.S., half proceeds Annual Meeting and Fête...	35	0	0
Teachers and Children Holy Trinity School, Stepney ...	1	17	0
Notting Hill B.W.T.A.		5	0
Miss Auld and Staff Municipal High School, West Hartlepool	1	10	0
	£3,191	19	0

Further donations should be sent to the Countess of Selborne, or to Miss Sterling, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, London, S.W.; cheques and postal orders to be crossed London County and Westminster Bank, Victoria Branch.

LETTER ADDRESSED TO THE RT. HON. HERBERT H. ASQUITH, K.C., M.P.

July 25th, 1916.

Sir,—In view of the statement made by you in the House of Commons on July 19th, that the Government would itself take into consideration the question of registration and the method of securing adequate representation for those engaged in the war or in war-work, we, the undersigned, as representing our respective Societies, beg you to receive a small deputation of five or six persons, led by Mrs. Henry Fawcett, to put before you our reasons for holding that this issue must involve the question of the enfranchisement of women.—Yours faithfully,

MARY WHITTY, Actresses' Franchise League; FLORENS ROCH, Catholic Women's Suffrage Society; F. SHEWELL COOPER, Church League for Women's Suffrage; MAUD SELBORNE, Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association; JANE E. STRICKLAND, Free Church League for Women's Suffrage; J. SPRING RICE, Irish Women's Suffrage Federation; EVA McLAREN, Liberal Women's Suffrage Union; ADELINE MARY ROBERTS, M.D., London Graduates' Union for Women's Suffrage; ESTHER S. ROPER, National Industrial and Professional Women's Suffrage Society; EVELYN M. L. ATKINSON, National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies; ADELINE M. CHAPMAN, New Constitutional Society for Women's Suffrage; ANNIE G. FERRIER, Scottish Churches League for Women's Suffrage; FRANCES H. SIMSON Scottish University Women's Suffrage Union; BERTHA BREWSTER, United Suffragists.

Reply from Mr. Asquith's Secretary.

August 1st, 1916.

Dear Madam,—I am desired by the Prime Minister to thank you for your letter of the 25th July.

In view of the very heavy pressure of his public engagements arising out of the war, the Prime Minister regrets that he is unable to receive a deputation from your Society. He must request you therefore to be content to put before him a statement of your case in writing, which he can assure you will receive the Government's most careful consideration.—Yours faithfully,

(Signed) M. Bonham Carter.

Experts in Humanity.

In the old days, before the war, we were most of us compelled, at more or less frequent intervals, to set out on a quest for labour of some kind. We paid endless visits and many fees to so-called "Registry Offices," we wrote to our friends and relations, we answered and inserted advertisements for cooks, housemaids, nurses, and "tweenies," in fact for specimens of all those different people who go to make up the staff of dwellings large and small. We would emerge from a Registry Office after a long and encouraging chat with the proprietress, who invariably assured us that the particular class of worker for whom we clamoured was extraordinarily rare, but that SHE was in a position to give several names then on her books. We paid our fee and sallied forth upon the great adventure. In many cases the names given to us proved to belong to people who were already working for someone else. There was generally a certain number who were "at home," and had decided to stay there and "help mother," and a large number were utterly unsuitable, for varying reasons. After a long and tiring day, we would come to the conclusion, as a rule, that any known intermediary between supply and demand was most unsatisfactory. The wrong people were brought together, the wrong people were doing the wrong jobs, and there resulted nothing but disappointment and dissatisfaction. Untrained people were undertaking work of all kinds, which should only have been done by trained workers, and that with very little

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Advice and Information with regard to possibilities of training for new openings for women in every trade and profession.

Loans and Assistance Scholarships offered to suitable young women desiring training.

Full particulars from Miss O. W. Robinson, Women's Service Bureau, London Society for Women's Suffrage, 58, Victoria Street, London, S.W., on application.

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THE SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITAL FOR FOREIGN SERVICE

By MRS. FAWCETT

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What the Newspapers say:

Times.—"'Women of the Empire in War Time.' Souvenir Edition. In honour of their great devotion and self-sacrifice. A handsome paper-bound volume, containing a comprehensive description of all the varied activities of women throughout the Empire, with abundance of photographs and groups."

Observer.—"The souvenir edition of 'Women of the Empire in War Time,' published by the Dominion of Canada News Company, at General Buildings, Aldwych, will help the public to realise the extent and value of the work that women are doing in the war. All the funds they have organised, all the associations they have formed, all the assistance that they are giving in various spheres of labour are the subjects of this edition. The articles are all illustrated, and most of them are written by distinguished ladies who are prominently associated with the organisations concerned. The Editor, Mr. A. M. de Beck, has been so impressed, in the course of compiling the souvenir, by the enterprise and enthusiasm displayed by the women of all classes in the war that he proposes to establish a new sixpenny weekly journal, entitled 'Women of the Empire,' to be devoted to the cause of womankind."

opposition from those who were employing them. The necessity of earning immediately a wage of some kind (it could not in many cases be called a "living" wage), ignorance of the possibilities of training, often of their individual talents, powers, and real inclinations, caused hundreds of women to slip into posts which proved to be irksome and underpaid, and which held out no promise for that future which to so many women is a veritable nightmare, a thing to be kept as far as possible out of the thoughts; a thing fraught with the terrors of an old age of unemployment, of failing health, of charity, of want, even of dire necessity. We need only read the descriptive lists of candidates for grants from various philanthropic bodies to realise the straits to which highly-educated, cultivated women may come for want of just that skilled direction and advice, that individual attention which means so much.

The Organiser and Individual Attention.

It is no new thing for those who have at heart the general welfare of women and girls, to strive for the betterment of the conditions under which they work and live, to make every possible effort to put into their hands the means of using every bit of themselves to the best advantage. Gradually the value of organisation has been creeping into the minds of the community at large, and women have proved their peculiar suitability for organising work of all kinds. But in spite of much natural ability, training is also necessary to make a really successful organiser, and for many years now women have trained for such work. When we think of marshalling a large body of people, we are inclined to think of them in the mass, and to forget perhaps that it is made up of individuals, and that the right use of those individuals will make or mar the effectiveness of the whole. We realise more and more the necessity for individual attention in all walks of life.

A Women's Service Bureau.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies has always stood for women's interests; it has seized every possible opportunity of safeguarding them, and when, at the outbreak of war, it decided to abandon political work for the time being, the Executive Committee and the members of the Union felt more than ever that as women's opportunities for doing useful work increased, so increased the responsibilities of those people who had the welfare of women in their programme. So the London Society of Women's Suffrage established a "Women's Service Bureau," and undertook to receive applications from all kinds of women for all kinds of work, and to deal with these applications not as statisticians but as "Experts in Humanity."

How it is Run.

The room at 58, Victoria Street (the offices of the Society) in which miscellaneous applications are dealt with, presents at all times a most interesting scene. At some five or six tables sit a corresponding number of women, many of them voluntary workers, but all of them skilled. At each table is an extra chair, which is very seldom empty. Applicants are sent into the room in turn, and as a vacancy occurs so it is filled from the string of women and girls waiting for admission. It is enthralling work. The interviewers, tactful and sympathetic, skilled in dealing with all kinds of individuals, possessed of a seemingly inexhaustible fund of information likely to assist those applying to them for help, hear many stories of hardship and suffering, or thwarted ambition, and hopeless struggles after better things. A wonderful system of indexing is maintained, and the interviewer is able in a few minutes to give full particulars of a post or of a course of training to the applicant she is dealing with at the moment. In addition to this, a record of each application is kept by means of a prepared form, which is filled in by each individual. Many applications are registered from people willing to do voluntary work of all kinds, and these all receive their share of attention.

Grants for Training.

In every case, women and girls who are entirely unskilled are advised to take up a course of training, which will enable them to qualify for a living wage. In many instances, a girl can be fed and lodged at home, but cannot raise sufficient money to pay travelling and other small expenses and the very few guineas which would often enable her to obtain the necessary training for the particular work she is anxious and able to take up. These cases are carefully investigated and placed before an advisory committee, and if everything prove satisfactory, and the girl shows herself to be in every way suitable, a grant of money is given to her, and she is put in touch with the means of using it to the best advantage. A girl now working in the chemist's department of a big stores, who, after providing for an invalid mother and herself, had no money left for other purposes, is now working through a course of instruction at the Polytechnic in the evenings, in order that she may take the Apothecaries Hall examination in dispensing. She is able by means of her "grant" to pay the necessary fees. This is only one of many such cases.

Women, educated, but entirely untrained from a wage earning point of view, sometimes with children, and without means of subsistence through no fault of their own, bring sad stories of suffering and fears for the future. The Women's Service Bureau is now helping such a case. Mrs. ——, whose husband is a Government official in India, had always received from him for her own support and that of her children, a certain monthly sum. Suddenly, without any kind of warning, the remittance ceased, and she has been forced to realise that in the future she must rely upon her own efforts to provide for her family. She has now, by means of a grant from the Women's Service Bureau, begun a course of training that will transform her from an unskilled into a skilled worker, and will enable her to face the future with a certain equanimity.

It is impossible, within the compass of this article to deal in detail with the work of the Bureau in connection with the many so-called "new" openings for women, such as dental mechanics, co-operative work on the land, engineering, acetylene welding, and engineering and architectural tracing. The Women's Service Bureau has organised a special department for dealing with the employment of women in munition factories. To carry on such a large and important piece of constructive work funds are needed. Donations for this purpose will be gratefully received, and used to the best advantage by the London Society for Women's Suffrage, 58, Victoria Street, S.W.

TRAINING FOR WORK ON THE LAND.

A member of the L.S.W.S. is prepared to pay part maintenance fees for two or more students who want to learn farming with the Women Co-operative Farmers, Ltd., Heathfield, Sussex. Any prospective student wishing to take advantage of this offer should call on Miss Walford, 58, Victoria Street.

DONATIONS TO N.U.W.S.S. SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITAL

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	125,707	12	9½
Miss M. W. Cunningham (Serbia)	1	0	0
Messrs Brown & Polson, per Miss Etta Shankland... ...	25	0	0
*Birkhenhead and District W.S.S. Subs. for July, per Miss Daly, Hon. Treas. ...	3	1	0
Miss Dewar (Serbians)... ...	2	0	0
Per Miss Bury, Employees Messrs. Lumsden & Sons, Edenvalley Works, Freuchie, per Rev. Lilley	3	8	0
Per Miss Bury, Employees of Guardbridge Paper Mill, Fife, per St. Andrews W.S.S.	2	10	0
Per Miss Bury, Employees of Messrs. Ireland & Wishart, Strathern Linen Factory, Abernethy	1	0	0
Scotswoman (Serbians) ...	5	0	0
*Messrs. Fleming Reid & Co., Worsted Mills, Greenock, per Mrs. Sime	25	0	0
A Friend (Serbia)		10	0
A Mother		10	0
John S. Gibb, Esq. (Serbia)...	5	0	0
Anon.		5	0
*Pupils of George Watson's Ladies' College, Edinburgh, per Miss Ainslie, to name "J. A. Simpson Memorial" Bed (Royaumont)	50	0	0
Per W. D. Beaton, Esq., Electricity Works, Victoria Road, Kirkcaldy		10	0
Mrs Ramsay (£5), Miss Ramsay (£3)	8	0	0
M.B.	1	0	0
Per Miss M. B. Smith, St. Leonard's School, St. Andrews, to endow "St. Leonard's School" Bed (Royaumont), 2nd year ...	50	0	0
Mrs. Niecks	1	1	0
Firm and Employees of Messrs. Simpson & Fairbairn Ltd., Ruymers Mill, Earlston, per Miss Bury (per Berwickshire W.S.S.) ...	3	18	6
*Employees Messrs. Ireland & Wishart, Strathearn Linen Factory, Abernethy, per Miss Bury	0	19	3
*Per Mrs. Salvesen, Mrs. Boyd (Ambulance Fund) ...	20	0	0
Mrs. Rose	10	0	0
*Per Miss Etta Shankland, Employees Seedhill Finishing Co. Ltd., Paisley, per R. Benson, Esq.	2	0	0
*Miss M. K. le Maistre ...	2	0	0
"A."	1	0	0
Rev. J. Campbell...	1	1	0
Mrs. Buchanan	2	0	0
*Per Miss Bury, Employees Messrs. Smith, Anderson, & Co., Fettykill Paper Mills, Leslie	1	0	0
*Per Miss Brown, Employees of R.N. Torpedo Factory (per Greenock Com. for S.W.H.)	35	0	1
*Per Mrs. Robertson, Employees of Messrs. M. Muir & Co. (£1 5s. 6d.), Employees Messrs. Boyd & Forrest (£2 5s.), Miss Hamilton (4 weekly subs.) (6s.)	3	16	6
*Per Mrs. Walpole, further towards "Sheffield in Tasmania' Bed (Corsica) ...	20	0	0
Miss H. C. Wardale (Serbian Units)	10	0	0
Kossovo Day, collected in Orphir Public School, Kirkwall	0	8	0
Bathgate Co-Op. Soc. Ltd. ...	3	3	0
Per H. S. Winchester, Esq., collected by Miss Patrick in Arrochar	2	1	0
*Per Mrs. Ellis, Hon. Treas., Nairn W.S.S. (monthly subs.)	16	10	0
Per A. G. Cogman, Esq., Hon. Treas., St. Leonards, Church, Lasswade	1	1	0
Per Miss Mabel Downing, Girls' High School, Wigan		7	4
Lauriston Place U.F. Church Mission Bible Class, per Miss E. Weir	1	9	0
*Staff and Pupils of Stand Grammar School, towards 2nd year of Bed (Royaumont), per Miss Bickett ...	12	10	0
*Per Miss Etta Shankland, Girls in Packing Dept. Messrs. Brown & Polson's Ltd., Paisley	2	0	0
*Per Miss Bury, Employees in Skene Works, Strathmiglo (£2 13s. 6d.), Messrs. W. Thomson & Sons, East Bank Works, Strathmiglo (£2 12s. 6d.)	5	6	0
Per North Berwick School Board, result of Cake and Candy Sale by Staffs and Pupils (Serbia)	16	13	8
E. S. B.	1	0	0
Total	£126,067	12	1½

* Denotes further donation.

Further List of Beds Named.

Name of Bed.	*Donor.*
"J. A. Simpson Memorial" (Royaumont)	Pupils of George Watson's Ladies' College, Edinburgh, per Miss Ainslie.
"St. Leonard's School" (2nd year, Royaumont)	Pupils of St. Leonard's School, St. Andrews, per Miss M. B Smith.

What Some of our Societies are Doing.

Central Counties Federation.

The SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR Society held a garden meeting on July 22nd to discuss the present situation. The meeting was not very large, so many of the members being absent on war work. The Vicar of St. Gregory's, Tredington, took the chair, and Mrs. Ring, of Birmingham, spoke. A resolution urging the Government not to overlook the claims of women in any new arrangement of the franchise was moved from the chair, and passed. Members were asked to write individually to some member of the Government, as their own member was on active service.

On July 27th was held a Joint Conference of representatives of the BIRMINGHAM Women's Suffrage Society—President, Mrs. Osler, the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association (Birmingham Branch), President, The Lady Willoughby de Broke; the Church League for Women's Suffrage (Birmingham Branch), President, The Bishop of Lincoln; the Birmingham Friends' Suffrage Society, President, Mrs. Godlee; and the Birmingham Catholic Women's Suffrage League—at which the following resolution was passed:—

"That this Conference of Birmingham Societies for Women's Suffrage appeals most earnestly for the inclusion of women as voters in any alteration of the Registration Laws, not as a reward for having done their duty in this great crisis, but because, by their share in practically every phase of national work, they have completely justified their long-standing claim for representation."

The resolution has been sent to every member of the Government and to the local Press.

Great Yarmouth.

A drawing-room meeting was held on Friday, July 28th, at 29, Southtown, Great Yarmouth, when Mrs. Corbett Ashby gave an interesting account of the efforts and doings of the National Union during the war. A resolution was passed calling upon the Government to include women if new classes of voters are enfranchised on the ground of national service, and was subsequently forwarded to the local M.P.

Bristol.

The weekly working parties were held at the Office until July 12th; they are now discontinued for two months. If the war goes on we hope to continue working for the Foreign Suffrage Hospitals.

On Kossovo Day a drawing-room meeting was held at 5, Berkeley Square, by the kind invitation of Canon and Mrs. Talbot. There was a large attendance, and Miss Alice Gardner, of the Bristol University, and late Lecturer and Fellow of Newnham College, Cambridge, gave an interesting and comprehensive address on the history of the Serbian people, with readings from some of their national ballads. Miss Mullock, M.Sc., presided, and a collection was taken for the Serbian Hospitals.

On July 15th Mrs. W. C. H. Cross spoke on the care of the nation's children at a meeting held at Winterbourne Park, by the invitation of His Honour Judge Stanger.

On July 19th Mrs. Cross gave an At Home to the Totterdown and Bedminster branches at Drayton Beaufort Road. The weather was very fine, and tea and games took place on the lawn. The afternoon was much enjoyed by the members.

At the recent Conference of Infant Welfare Workers, held in Bristol, the local centres did extremely well in the national mothercraft competitions. The silver challenge shield was won by the University Settlement Maternity Centre for the highest aggregate of marks—the first time it has been won by a school in the provinces. One of the Centres, helped by the Bristol Suffrage Society and superintended by its Hon. Sec., Mrs. Cross, was second in England, being only two marks behind the Settlement School. The other school helped by this Society and superintended by Mrs. Butler, one of the Executive Committee, was first in England in the competition for mothercraft, and these two schools also took first prizes in cooking.

The Bristol Committee is sending a resolution to the Home and Education Offices with regard to the unrestricted attendance of young children at cinematograph exhibitions; and letters to the local Members of Parliament protesting against an alteration in the basis of the franchise unless women are included.

Scarborough.

An "At Home" to members and others, by invitation of the President and Committee, was held by this Society in the afternoon of July 27th, at Matthew's Boarding House, when Mrs. Streeter spoke on the work of the N.U.W.S.S. in War-time. Mrs. Heitland, Chairman of the Cambridge Suffrage Association, and a visitor to Scarborough, kindly took the chair, and gave a most forcible speech in introducing the resolution, which was subsequently passed (*re* Registration Bill). After tea Mrs. Streeter spoke in eloquent terms of the way in which the N.U.W.S.S. had adjusted itself to the changed conditions which war had forced upon it, just at the height of its prosperity, and how it had been looked up to as an efficient and reliable organisation by others seeking help. She outlined how the small beginnings of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, initiated by Dr. Elsie Inglis—(applause)—had become of world-wide renown, and how the work among the Polish refugees in Russia was forging links in the chain that would bind us more closely to our brave Allies. In conclusion, she laid stress on the necessity for all Suffragists to be on the alert, and ready for future efforts should occasion arise, as might be likely in the near future.

After the sum of £2 15s. had been collected towards providing a "Scarborough Bed" in the Scottish Women's Hospitals, a most enjoyable meeting terminated.

Acting on instructions from Headquarters to send a resolution to your Member, the following resolutioin (*re* Registration Bill) was put to the meeting and carried unanimously, the Hon. Sec., Miss Stephens, being instructed to send it to Mr. Walter Rea:—

"That if Parliament is called upon by the Government to alter the basis of the franchise the injustice of the exclusion of women from representation should at the same time be removed, their value to the State having been so clearly demonstrated by their having taken their full share of the national burden during this time of crisis."

On June 7th this Branch also sent up the two resolutions (*re* Registration Bill), with a covering letter, to each member of the Cabinet, as requested by the Executive. On June 26th twenty pamphlets on Kossovo Day were sent to the Secretary of the Scarborough Education Committee for distribution among the schools. The Working Party continues, the last parcel sent out being for the Maternity Unit in Russia; and work is being done for the Mayoress's Central Committee. It is also a means of keeping members together and discussing the various Suffrage situations which arise.

Gateshead Society for Women's Suffrage.

A garden party was held on Saturday, July 22nd, and proved a great success, as the weather made it a pleasure to be out of doors. About sixty members and friends attended, and spent an hour in conversation and tea before Miss Temperley, M.A., took the chair for the meeting. Mrs. J. T. Dunn, the Hon. Secretary, proposed a resolution, just received from Headquarters, to the effect that no Registration Act which does not include the enfranchisement of women ought to be brought before Parliament. This was carried unanimously. Mrs. G. D. Biltcliffe gave a stirring address on "The Future of the Women's Movement," expressing strong hopes of an early grant of the vote, as the war activities of women had made a deep impression on men and converted many convinced opponents. This optimistic view was shared by Mrs. Spence Watson, the honoured President of the Society, whose welcome presence added to the brightness of the afternoon. Other members were not able to share these hopes so confidently. Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Irwin took charge of a stall of cakes and flowers, and turned an honest penny for the Society's funds; and many other members, by gifts and labour, added to the enjoyment of an afternoon of cloudless sunshine.

Working Parties.

Ascot Society—Working Parties for Members and Friends. Held in Ascot every Tuesday, and Sunninghill every Thursday 2.30—5.0

Bolton—Suffrage Shop, Bradshawgate—Working Party for the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals Every Monday, 2.30; and every Thursday at 8.0

Bournemouth—At 167, Old Christchurch Road—for the Polish Refugees Maternity Unit Every Monday, 3.0—6.0

Bridlington—Sewing Party for the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals Every Wednesday, 3.0—6.0

Chiswick and Bedford Park—Working Party for London Units of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals Every Thursday, 3.0—6.0

Farnham—At Bourne Lodge—Working Party for the Russian Maternity Unit On Thursday, at 2.45—4.15

Hastings—At the Suffrage Club—A Working Party for Scottish Women's Hospitals Every Tuesday, 2.30—6.0

Huddersfield—Sewing Meetings will be held at the Office, 41, Spring Street Every Tuesday, 2.30

Leamington—Every Tuesday, at 35, Warwick Street, to make sandbags; and every Wednesday, to make hospital garments 2.30

Lowestoft—For the Polish Refugees Maternity Unit—Every Monday alternately—Miss Coates, 61, London Road—North, Mrs. Drummond, 22, Kirkley Park Road 2.30

Scarborough—6, Falconer Chambers—Working Party Every Monday, 2.45

Shipley and Saltaire—Ladies' Parlour of Saltaire Congregational Church School—Sewing Meeting Every Thursday, 2.30

Southampton—Working Party for the Russian Maternity Unit, at Hazelhurst, Hulse Road—Hostess, Mrs. Farquharson Every Wednesday, 3.0—6.30

Surbiton and Kingston—Working Party for Friends of the Suffrage at 107, Maple Road, Surbiton, to make cloths for East Surrey Regiment Every Tuesday

Wakefield—St. John's Institute—Sewing Party Every Wednesday, 2.30—6.0

Forthcoming Meeting

AUGUST 8.

South Kensington—Drawing-room Meeting at 1A, Holland Park—Hostess, Miss Mabel Holland—Speakers, The Right Hon. W. H. Dickinson, M.P., Mrs. Heitland—Chairman, Miss Clough 8.30

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If you have a want of any description, do not fail to make it known through the advertisement columns of our paper. We are constantly receiving letters of thanks from our readers. Herewith are some extracts:—

"I shall be only too pleased to continue to advertise in the 'C.C.' as the nicest visitors I have had through its medium."

"I had an advertisement in a few months ago, and it was *most* successful."

"I enclose tariff as promised; I have already received some guests owing to my advertisement in your paper."

"Please discontinue my advertisement, as I have already let my flat through your paper."

"Please continue my advertisement for another three months; I do not want to be out of the paper," etc., etc., etc.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

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WORDS.	ONCE.	THREE TIMES.	SIX TIMES.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
10	- 9	2 0	3 6
20	1 3	3 3	5 9
30	1 9	4 6	7 6
40	2 3	6 3	12 0

All advertisements should be addressed to The Manager, The Common Cause Publishing Co., Ltd., 14, Great Smith-st., Westminster, and must be received not later than first post Wednesday.

POSITIONS VACANT.

OCTOBER 1st for Bude. Lady servant and lady nurse; vegetarians.—Box 5,981, Common Cause Office.

WANTED, Aug. 19-Sept. 2, Holiday Governess in country; two girls, 7-5; state salary.—Moore, Ede Hammerwood, Oxted, Surrey.

HELP WANTED.

ESME STUART, Witham Close, Winchester, would be grateful for money help for an old French teacher. Left England at the war and is starving at Nice. No teaching now there.

NURSERY TRAINING.

WOMEN'S DUTY TO THE NATION.

INFANT CARE.—Probations received for training at Whitefield Day Nursery, 53 and 55, Whitefield-st., W. Vacancies in October and November.—Apply Miss Robertson, 16, Portland-pl., W.

CHURCH SCHOOL FOR HOUSECRAFT & NURSERY TRAINING.—Students received; course of four months, £16 16s.; babies in residence.—Apply Lady Supt., 36, St. George's-square, Primrose-hill.

BUSINESS.

ENGLAND and ITALY.—To those wishing to extend their business, English lady opening an office in commercial town in Northern Italy would take up an agency; best references.—Write "W.," c/o The Manager, Common Cause Office.

BOOKS, REVIEWS, Etc.

Problems of Prostitution. THE SHIELD. (7½d. post free quarterly.) **Summary of Royal Commission's Report on Venereal Diseases.** (2½d. post free.) **Warning to Men in Regulated Countries.** (1½d. post free.) **Present Moral Conditions in Indian Cantonments.** (ditto.) *From* The Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, 19, Tothill Street, S.W.

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HAND-WOVEN MATERIALS, Made in the Dauntless Hall Workroom. Artistic Dress Fabrics in Linen, Cotton, Wool, &c. On Sale at the Alston Studio, 8, New Bond-st., W., where lessons in Spinning and Weaving are given.
Demonstrations every Tuesday, 11.30 to 1.

MOTORING.

THE HON. GABRIELLE BORTHWICK'S AUTOMOBILE WORKSHOPS.

Special Summer School at reduced fees. Motoring, Driving, &c., with Garage work daily, 10 to 6, at 8, Brick-st., Piccadilly. Phone, 5,740, Mayfair.

EDUCATIONAL & PROFESSIONAL.

"MORE MONEY TO SPEND" (Income Tax Recovery and Adjustment).—Send postcard for this booklet to Mrs. Ayres Purdie, Women Taxpayers' Agency, Hampden House, 3, Kingsway. 'Phone, Central 6049.

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MARY McLACHLAN, Typist, 4, Chapel Walk, Manchester.

TEMPLAR PRINTING WORKS, BIRMINGHAM.—R. Crombleholme, General Manager. Enquiries solicited.

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